



Los Angeles County Pharmaceuticals and Sharps Collection and Disposal Stewardship Ordinance

January 11, 2016

Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 383
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Fax: (213) 613-1739

RE: Los Angeles County Pharmaceuticals and Sharps Collection and Disposal Stewardship Ordinance –
NOTICE OF SUPPORT

Dear Supervisor Solis:

The West Los Angeles / Malibu Chapter of The Surfrider Foundation supports the drafting and adoption of Los Angeles County's Pharmaceuticals and Sharps Collection and Disposal Stewardship Ordinance.

The proposed ordinance would require the development of Stewardship Plans to address the collection and disposal of unwanted/unused pharmaceuticals and sharps waste generated by residents. The ordinance establishes a sustainably financed program that will provide residents with a convenient means to safely dispose of unwanted sharps and pharmaceuticals and help to prevent them from entering the environment, reduce their availability for drug abuse and misuse, and reduce injuries associated with sharps being improperly disposed. With access to safe and convenient disposal options, as well as an outreach and education program, residents will be more informed of the appropriate collection and disposal methods.

We understand the County has conducted multiple stakeholder meetings, which included representatives from the manufacturers and producers of these materials, retailers, pharmacies, consumer advocacy groups, the waste hauling industry, environmental organizations, including volunteer members of The Surfrider Foundation, and others, in order to develop the most effective ordinance.

*Surfrider Foundation WLAM
2629 Main Street #196 Santa Monica, CA 90405*

The passage of this ordinance would ensure that manufacturers and producers of prescription and nonprescription drugs and sharps share in the responsibility of proper disposal of their products. The West Los Angeles / Malibu Chapter of The Surfrider Foundation supports this shared responsibility approach, as the costs of managing these materials at the end of their life should not solely come from local jurisdictions.

The West Los Angeles / Malibu Chapter of The Surfrider Foundation is very interested in the passage of this ordinance so that West Los Angeles / Malibu residents have access to safe, convenient, and sustainably financed collection and disposal methods of pharmaceuticals and sharps. We are especially happy that Los Angeles County is taking action that aligns with The Surfrider Foundation mission aimed at protection and enjoyment of our ocean, waves, and beaches. In 2015, beaches in Los Angeles were closed due to sharps washing up on shore. Beach closures such as these might be prevented in the future by the adoption of an ordinance such as the one proposed by Los Angeles County. We praise Los Angeles County for the drafting and adoption of this ordinance and write this letter in support.

Sincerely,

Tina Segura, Executive Committee Chairperson
West Los Angeles / Malibu Chapter of The Surfrider Foundation
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cc:

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